

PHASE IA CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY CHESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE CANAL TRAIL

CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND AND NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

1. INTRODUCTION

A. Project Description

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District, is currently conducting studies of the recreational potential of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The major focus of these studies is the proposed development of a multi-use trail system that will enhance the recreational opportunities for the local and regional community. Along with traditional trail uses such as hiking and biking, heritage tourism and historic sites interpretation are likely components of this recreational development scheme. In this context, USACE has hired Hunter Research, Inc., working as a subconsultant to EA Engineering, Science and Technology, to complete a Phase IA cultural resource investigation along the canal corridor to: 1). identify known historic and archaeological resources which may merit historic interpretive development through documentary research, field inspection and the development of a prehistoric and historic context for the project corridor; and 2). identify areas of historical and archaeological sensitivity which may affect or constrain landscape restoration, trail development and construction of facilities such as parking lots, access areas and comfort stations.

The study area for the Phase IA cultural resource survey is defined as a one-mile-wide corridor extending for a half mile on either side of the center line of the existing canal from just west of Chesapeake City, Maryland to the Delaware River, and including the entire triangular parcel of land that contains Fort DuPont State Park at the eastern end of the canal. This approximately 15-mile-long study area lies within Cecil County, Maryland and New Castle

County, Delaware (Figure 1). Information regarding the project plans was taken from the *Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Trail Concept Plan* developed in 2005 by Andropogon Associates, Ltd. for the USACE (Figure 2).

The following work tasks were performed as part of this investigation: background research in both Maryland and Delaware, a field inspection of the entire alignment of the canal, resource tabulation and mapping, the development of a prehistoric and historic context for the project corridor and the production of this summary document. All work was carried out in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and guidelines of both the Maryland Historical Trust and the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Senior Hunter Research personnel who were responsible for undertaking these investigations met the federal standards for qualified professional archaeologists as specified in 36 CFR 66.3(b)(2) and 36 CFR 61. Historical research was mostly conducted in December of 2006. The field inspection was performed in January and February of 2007, after an examination and collation of the research materials. Analysis of findings and production of this report were carried out in February and March 2007. This report was revised in July and August of 2007.

B. Research Methodology and Principal Sources of Information

While numerous maps of the proposed and actual canal alignments exist in several repositories, notably the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Archives and Records Administration, map research for this project was targeted at those sources depicting build-

ings and structures. The Maryland Historical Trust and Delaware Historic Preservation Office served as a source of information on previously-documented architectural and archaeological resources in each state. County and state maps and atlases were consulted at the Historical Society of Cecil County and the Historical Society of Delaware. Six of these that showed detailed buildings and structures proved to be useful. Simon J. Martenet's *Martenet's Map of Cecil County* and Lake, Griffing and Stevenson's *An Illustrated Atlas of Cecil County, Maryland* (1877) located at the Historical Society of Cecil County and Rea and Price's *Map of New Castle County, Delaware* (1849), J. G. Beers' *Atlas of the State of Delaware* (1868), G. M. Hopkins' *Map of New Castle County, Delaware* (1881) and G. W. Baist's *Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware* (1893) located at the Historical Society of Delaware served as the basis for this study. These maps were supplemented by G. T. Poussin's *Canal de la Chesapeake a la Delaware* (1834) and with U.S. Coast Survey maps from 1841 – 1905. However, the U.S. Coast Survey maps provided coverage of either end of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal but not the interior of the canal alignment. The *Map of the Profile of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal* (Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company 1829) was examined at both the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal Museum located at the Pump House in South Chesapeake City and at the Grass Dale facility of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. This map is currently hanging in both places under glass and was examined, informally photographed, and detailed in notes by the principal investigator.

In addition to historic maps, Ralph D. Gray's *The National Waterway: A History of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal 1769-1985* (1989) provided background context for the history and development of the canal. K.T. Morgan and J. K. Titter's *Chesapeake City: The Canal Town Through the Years* (2000) and J.T. Scharf's *History of Delaware* provided 19th-century

historical material for towns along the project corridor. Several historic preservation planning documents, including *A Management Plan for the Archaeological Resources of the Upper Delmarva Region of Maryland* (1983), *The Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan: Planning the Future of Maryland's Past* (1986), *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (1989), *Management Plan for Delaware Historical Archaeological Resources* (1990) and *Delaware Historic Context: Archaeology of Agriculture and Farm Life, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware, 1830-1940* (1992) as well as Lu Ann De Cunzio's *Historical Archaeology of Delaware: People, Contexts, and the Cultures of Agriculture* (2004) provided context for the development of the cultural landscape to the north and south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

2. PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC LAND-USE HISTORY

A. Prehistoric Background

1. Introduction

This chapter commences with a brief overview of the paleoenvironment. This is followed by an outline of Delmarva Peninsula prehistory organized according to the framework proposed by Jay Custer (1983, 1984, 1989, 1994) and Charles Weslager (1968), and taking into account Richard Dent's prehistory of the Chesapeake Bay region (1995).

2. Paleoenvironment

The paleoenvironmental processes affecting the Delmarva peninsula over the past 15,000 years or so have been dominated by the post-Pleistocene warming trend and the resultant rise in sea level which has submerged what we now know as the continental shelf. The general trends for the Mid-Atlantic coast can be